

**JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
CONFERENCE ROOM
JANUARY 3, 2008
10:00 A.M.**

MINUTES

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN - FRED TUTEN, COUNCILMAN - LEROY BLACKSHEAR,
ADMINISTRATOR – ANDREW FULGHUM, DEP. ADMINISTRATOR
EMERGENCY SERVICES – ROY HUGHES, CLERK TO COUNCIL – JUDITH
FRANK

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT THE
ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA WERE NOTIFIED.

DURING PERIODS OF DISCUSSION AND/OR PRESENTATIONS MINUTES ARE
TYPICALLY CONDENSED AND PARAPHRASED.

CALL TO ORDER:

CHAIRMAN TUTEN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 10:00 A.M.

INVOCATION:

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR GAVE THE INVOCATION.

DISCUSSION:

DETENTION CENTER:

MR. HUGHES REPORTED THAT DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER THERE
WERE 254 INMATES AT THE DETENTION CENTER. MR. HUGHES SAID THAT
RIDGELAND ADMITTED 80, HARDEEVILLE ADMITTED 52, THE HIGHWAY
PATROL ADMITTED 31, THE SHERIFF ADMITTED 71 AND 20 INMATES WERE
ADMITTED FROM OTHER SOURCES LIKE DNR, FBI, IMMIGRATION AND THE
MARSHALL SERVICE.

MR. HUGHES STATED THAT CURRENTLY THERE WERE 136 INMATES AT
THE DETENTION CENTER AND 7 INMATES WERE AT OTHER FACILITIES.
CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED WHY WERE THEY AT OTHER FACILITIES AND
MR. HUGHES EXPLAINED THAT IF AN INMATE HAS SPECIAL MEDICAL
CONDITIONS, A SECURITY RISK OR IS AT DANGER AT THE DETENTION
CENTER THEY ARE PLACED IN OTHER FACILITIES. CHAIRMAN TUTEN
ASKED IF THE COUNTY HAD TO PAY FOR THIS SERVICE AND MR. HUGHES
SAID YES AND THE JUST CARE FACILITY (MEDICAL FACILITY) WAS QUITE
EXPENSIVE. CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED IF THE COUNTY WAS TAKING IN
ANY INMATES FROM OTHER AREAS AND GETTING PAID. MR. HUGHES
SAID THE COUNTY DETENTION CENTER DID NOT HAVE ANY ROOM.

MR. HUGHES SAID THAT MR. BENJAMIN HAS NOTIFIED HIM THAT THE STATE IS COMING TO DISCUSS THE AREA FOR THE NURSE AT THE DETENTION CENTER. MR. HUGHES SAID THE STATE SAID THE AREA IS NOT LARGE ENOUGH AND DOES NOT PROVIDE ADEQUATE PRIVACY REQUIRED BY THE NEW HIPPA LAWS. MR. HUGHES SAID HE IS AWAITING THE REPORT AND HE WILL BRING IT TO THE COMMITTEE SO THEY CAN DISCUSS SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS. MR. HUGHES SAID THAT EXPANSION OF THE DETENTION CENTER HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AND THIS SITUATION IS ANOTHER AREA THAT NEEDS TO BE EXPANDED.

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED WHERE THE STATE CAME UP WITH THIS SINCE THEY WERE INVOLVED WHEN THE JAIL WAS BUILT AND THE COUNTY WAS TOLD EVERYTHING WAS DONE RIGHT. MR. HUGHES SAID THE CHANGES IN THE HIPPA LAWS CAUSED THE PROBLEM WITH THE NURSE'S AREA. CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY WAY TO SWITCH OFFICES AROUND SO THE NURSE'S AREA WOULD BE MORE PRIVATE. MR. HUGHES SAID THAT HE WAS WAITING FOR THE REPORT TO SEE WHAT PRIORITIES THE STATE HAS LISTED. MR. HUGHES SAID THEY CAN SET UP A TIMEFRAME WITH THE STATE ON GETTING THE ISSUES HANDLED AND SINCE EXPANSION HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IT SHOULD HELP MATTERS. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THEY WOULD GET WITH THE ENGINEER AND TALK ABOUT EXPANSION AND THAT SHOULD GET THE COUNTY SOME TIME TO MOVE FORWARD. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE NUMBER OF INMATES CONTINUES TO INCREASE AND HE WILL TALK WITH THE ENGINEERS ABOUT SOME BASIC CHANGES. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WILL GET A TIMELINE AND COSTS FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE DETENTION CENTER.

CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED IF THE DUI MACHINE WAS WORKING AND MR. HUGHES SAID ALL THE EQUIPMENT WAS IN GOOD WORKING ORDER. MR. HUGHES SAID THAT HE GAVE OFFICER WISE THE DIRECT NUMBER TO SLED SO THAT IF SOMETHING NEEDED TO BE REPAIRED, THEY COULD CONTACT SLED IMMEDIATELY.

MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WAS WAITING FOR A REPORT FROM SCAC REGARDING CHARGING FOR INMATES AND HE WILL PROVIDE THE COMMITTEE WITH A COPY OF THE INFORMATION AS SOON AS HE RECEIVES IT.

SIGNS:

MR. HUGHES SAID THAT 30 SIGNS WERE STOLEN IN DECEMBER AND THAT HE HAS DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH MR. TERRY AND MR. TERRY IS GOING TO TRY AND COME UP WITH ANOTHER WAY TO SECURE THE SIGNS. MR. HUGHES SAID THAT HE PLANNED TO DO A MEDIA BLITZ AND OFFER A AMNESTY PERIOD FOR PEOPLE TO RETURN THE SIGNS AND ALSO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SIGNS AND THAT THE COUNTY WAS GOING TO PROSECUTE ANYONE WHO IS FOUND WITH A SIGN IN THEIR POSSESSION. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED HOW MUCH TIME WOULD BE GIVEN TO RETURN THE SIGNS AND MR. HUGHES

SAID 2 WEEKS. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR ASKED WHAT WILL THE FINE BE AND MR. HUGHES SAID IT WOULD GO THROUGH MAGISTRATE'S COURT AND THE MAGISTRATE SETS THE FINES. COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SUGGESTED THAT MR. HUGHES TALK TO THE MAGISTRATES AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO ISSUE THE MAXIMUM FINE ALLOWED. CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED MR. HUGHES TO CHECK INTO THE BIG SIGN AT THE ENTRANCE OF JASPER COUNTY AT THE HAMPTON COUNTY LINE. CHAIRMAN TUTEN SAID THE SIGN WAS STOLEN.

FIRE TOWER ROAD STATION AND ROBERTVILLE:

MR. HUGHES REPORTED THAT THE TREES HAVE BEEN CUT AND THE AREA JUST NEEDS TO BE STUMPED AND CLEARED. MR. HUGHES INFORMED THE COMMITTEE THAT MR. TERRY WILL START THE CLEARING AS SOON AS PUBLIC WORKS COMPLETES THE PROJECT AT BOLAN HALL LANDING. MR. HUGHES SAID THE CLEARING SHOULD START IN ABOUT ONE WEEK. MR. FULGHUM OFFERED TO TAKE THE COMMITTEE TO THE SITE AFTER THE MEETING.

MR. HUGHES SAID THAT THE TANKS AT ROBERTVILLE SHOULD BE FUNCTIONING BY THE END OF THE MONTH.

EMPLOYEES:

MR. HUGHES REPORTED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES, AND THAT THE CHIEF DISPATCHER POSITION HAS BEEN READVERTISED. MR. HUGHES SAID THAT MR. DEBIASE WAS HIRED AS THE TRAINING OFFICER AND HE SHOULD GO FULLTIME ON JANUARY 7, 2008. CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED WHAT GEORGE WYNN'S POSITION WAS AND WAS HE WORKING OVERTIME ON SPECIAL PROJECTS? MR. HUGHES SAID THAT MR. WYNN WAS WORKING AS A MEDIC-FIREMAN AND THAT MR. WYNN WAS NOT WORKING ON ANY SPECIAL PROJECTS. CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED WHO WAS THE NUMBER 2 PERSON AT EMS AND MR. HUGHES SAID THAT STEPHEN MALPHRUS WAS THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND WILBUR DALEY WAS THE ACTING FIRE CHIEF.

CHERRY POINT FIRE DISTRICT:

CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED IF THE EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN MOVED FROM THE CHERRY POINT FIRE STATION. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT NOTHING HAS BEEN SWAPPED OUT BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT CLOSED ON THE PROPERTY AND HE NEEDED TO TALK WITH THE HARDEEVILLE STAFF SO THAT THERE IS A SMOOTH TRANSITION. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THE FIRE SERVICE IN THAT AREA IS TIED TO THE FIRE CONTRACT AND HE HOPES TO HAVE RESOLUTION OF THE FIRE CONTRACT. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE CLOSING CAN BE ANYTIME BETWEEN NOW AND MARCH AND HE DIDN'T WANT TO CLOSE ON THE PROPERTY UNTIL THE FIRE CONTRACT WAS COMPLETED. CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED WHO WILL SERVE THE OKATIE AREA. MR. HUGHES SAID THAT OKATIE IS IN THE CHERRY POINT FIRE DISTRICT AND THAT IS PART OF THE NEGOTIATION THAT NEEDS TO

BE HANDLED. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE OKATIE AREA IS CURRENTLY COVERED BY THE COUNTY AND THE COUNTY ALSO HAS A MUTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE BLUFFTON FIRE DEPARTMENT TO COVER THAT AREA. CHAIRMAN TUTEN SAID HE WOULD LIKE FOR THIS COMMITTEE TO MEET WITH THE BLUFFTON PEOPLE. MR. HUGHES SAID THAT COUNTY HAS AN AGREEMENT IN PLACE WITH BLUFFTON AND BLUFFTON WILL SEND THEIR PEOPLE OUT IF THE COUNTY REQUESTS THEIR HELP. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WOULD SET UP A MEETING WITH THE HARDEEVILLE FIRE COMMITTEE. MR. FULGHUM SAID HE WILL ALSO TALK TO RIDGELAND ABOUT THEIR FIRE CONTRACT.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THERE WAS ALSO AN ISSUE REGARDING WORKER'S COMPENSATION WITH THE LEVY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND HE WAS WORKING ON RESOLVING THE PROBLEM.

MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT OSPREY LAKES STILL CANNOT START CONSTRUCTION BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT MADE THE NECESSARY CORRECTIONS WITH THE FIRE HYDRANTS; THE HYDRANTS ARE STILL TOO FAR APART. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO START CONSTRUCTION UNTIL THEY CORRECT THE PROBLEM.

LEAKAGE PROBLEMS:

MR. HUGHES SAID HE INFORMED PUBLIC WORKS ABOUT SOME LEAKAGE AT THE EMS CENTER THAT IS ENDANGERING SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT. MR. HUGHES SAID THAT MR. TERRY WAS INVESTIGATING WAYS TO CORRECT THE PROBLEM. CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED HOW LONG THE COUNTY PLANS ON OPERATING OUT OF THAT FACILITY. MR. FULGHUM SAID THAT THERE IS A NEW STATION THERE THAT HAS NOT EVEN BEEN USED YET AND THE SPACE IN THE CURRENT EMS BUILDING IS HARD TO REPLACE. MR. FULGHUM SAID THE COUNTY NEEDED TO CONSIDER WHERE THEY WOULD WANT TO PUT THE COUNTY'S BASE OF OPERATIONS AND THAT THE TOWN OF RIDGELAND IS LOOKING TO EXPAND AND NEEDED LOCATIONS FOR NEW FIRE STATIONS.

COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR SAID THAT A HOT ROOF COULD BE PUT ON TO TAKE CARE OF THE LEAKAGE AND IT SHOULD BE GOOD FOR AT LEAST TEN YEARS. MR. HUGHES SAID MAYBE THE KIND OF ROOF PUT ON THE OLD HOSPITAL OR THE OLD JAIL WOULD WORK.

AMBULANCES:

MR. HUGHES SAID HE IS CONSIDERING JOINING A CLASS ACTION SUIT FOR THE AMBULANCES. MR. HUGHES SAID HE IS HAVING THE ATTORNEY REVIEW THE SUIT. MR. HUGHES SAID 3 OF THE AMBULANCES ARE CONSISTANTLY OUT OF COMMISSION AND WHILE SOME OF THE REPAIRS ARE COVERED BY THE WARRANTY, ALL THE OTHER ASSOCIATED EXPENSES ARE NOT.

CHAIRMAN TUTEN ASKED IF MR. HUGHES WAS LOOKING INTO LEASING EQUIPMENT AND MR. HUGHES SAID THAT HE WAS AND HE WOULD PRESENT IT AT BUDGET TIME.

MR. HUGHES SAID THE COUNTY PUT AN AMBULANCE IN SERVICE IN AUGUST AND IT WAS OUT OF SERVICE UNTIL DECEMBER. MR. HUGHES SAID THE AMBULANCE HAS A 3 YEAR WARRANTY ON IT AND THE COUNTY IS TO GET THE OTHER UNIT THEY ORDERED IN MARCH, BUT HE HAS TOLD THE COMPANY TO RECONFIGURE THE DEAL SINCE HE COULD NOT USE THE DELIVERED AMBULANCE FOR 4 MONTHS.

MR. FULGHUM ASKED CHAIRMAN TUTEN AND COUNCILMAN BLACKSHEAR TO GO WITH HIM TO INSPECT THE FIRETOWER ROAD LOCATION.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:00 P.M

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED BY:

JUDITH M. FRANK, CCC
CLERK TO COUNCIL

FRED TUTEN
CHAIRMAN